

In the Claims

Claims are amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of determining a packet network address of at least one gateway which can be contacted to reach a destination terminal from an originating terminal via a packet-based communications network, the packet-based communication network comprising a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways and further comprising a gatekeeper, said gatekeeper having information about each gateway, said information comprising an identifier for each terminal connected to each of said plurality of gateways and a packet network address for each of said plurality of gateways ~~gateway~~, said method comprising the steps of:-

(i) sending a request from an originating gateway connected to the originating terminal to the gatekeeper, said request comprising the identifier of the destination terminal;

(ii) identifying at the gatekeeper a plurality of gateways having a terminal associated therewith where said terminal has an identifier identical to the destination terminal identifier comprising the request;

(iii) receiving a reply at the originating gateway from the gatekeeper said reply comprising the packet network address of at least one of said plurality of gateways identified by the gatekeeper which can be contacted to reach the destination terminal;

wherein said communications network comprises a first zone and a second zone each comprising a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways and wherein a plurality of terminal identifiers of the first zone ~~are~~ is also used for terminals of the second zone.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said reply comprises information about only one of the plurality of gateways which is in the same zone as the originating terminal.
4. (cancelled)
5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said reply is provided by the gatekeeper on the basis of the destination terminal identifier of the request.
6. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said request further comprises the packet network address of the originating gateway.
7. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said reply is provided by the gatekeeper on the basis of a unique label of the originating gateway as well as the destination terminal identifier of the request.
8. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein if the destination terminal identifier of the request occurs in both zones, the reply specifies that one of said plurality of gateways in the originating zone is to be contacted.
9. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first zone is associated with a first enterprise and a second zone is associated with a second enterprise.
10. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the identifiers are of a type selected from telephone numbers, universal resource identifiers (URLs), email addresses or any other suitable type of H.323 standard alias.
11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the request is an H.323 admission request.

13. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reply is an H.323 admission confirm message.

14. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of said plurality of gateways is unaware of which terminals are connected to others of said plurality of gateways in the communications network.

15. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said gatekeeper further comprises information about which terminals are accessible from each of said plurality of gateways together with cost information associated with accessing those terminals from each gateway.

16. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 15 wherein said reply comprises information about each gateway that can be used to access the destination terminal of the request together with ~~its~~ each gateway's associated cost information.

17. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said reply comprises a list of said plurality of gateways in order of ~~their~~ said plurality of gateways' associated costs.

18. (currently amended) A gatekeeper arranged for use in a packet-based communications network comprising a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways and wherein identifiers are associated with each terminal and each of said plurality of gateways has a packet network address, said gatekeeper comprising:-

- (i) a data store arranged to store information about each of said plurality of gateways in the communications network, said information comprising the identifier of each terminal connected to each of said plurality of gateways and the packet network address of each of said plurality of gateways;
- (ii) an input arranged to receive a request from an originating gateway in the communications network, said request comprising an identifier of a destination terminal;
- (iii) a processor arranged to determine the packet network address of ~~at least one of said~~ a plurality of gateways ~~which can be contacted to reach the destination terminal~~ having a terminal associated therewith where said terminal has an identifier identical to the destination terminal identifier comprising the request;
- (iv) an output arranged to send a reply to the originating gateway, said reply comprising the packet network address of said at least one of said plurality of gateways identified by the processor which can be contacted to reach the destination terminal;

wherein said communications network comprises a first zone and a second zone each comprising a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways and wherein a plurality of terminal identifiers of the first zone ~~are~~ ~~is~~ also used for terminals of the second zone.

19. (previously presented) The gatekeeper as claimed in claim 18 wherein said data store is further arranged to store cost information relating to the cost of accessing each available terminal from each of said plurality of gateways.

20. (previously presented) The gatekeeper as claimed in claim 18 wherein the processor is arranged to determine said packet network address on the basis of said destination terminal identifier of the request.

21. (currently amended) The gatekeeper as claimed in claim 19 wherein said request further comprises the packet network address of the originating gateway connected to the originating terminal, and the processor is arranged to determine said packet network address of ~~at least one of said~~ said plurality of gateways ~~which can be contacted to reach the destination terminal~~ having a terminal associated therewith where said terminal has an identifier identical to the destination terminal identifier comprising the request on the basis of the packet network address of the originating gateway as well as the destination terminal identifier of the request.

22. (currently amended) A gateway arranged for use in a packet-based communications network comprising a plurality of terminals connected either to the gateway or to second gateways and wherein identifiers are associated with each of said plurality of terminals, said communications network further comprising a gatekeeper having information about each of the gateway and second gateways comprising an identifier for each of said plurality of terminals connected to each of the gateway and second gateways and a packet network address of each of the gateway and second gateways, the gateway comprising:-

- (i) a processor arranged to issue a request to the gatekeeper, said request comprising an identifier of a destination terminal;
- (ii) an input arranged to receive a reply from the gatekeeper, said reply comprising the packet network address of at least one of ~~the~~ a plurality of the second gateways ~~which can be contacted to reach the destination terminal~~ having a terminal associated therewith where said terminal has an identifier identical to the destination terminal identifier comprising the request;

wherein said communications network comprises a first zone and a second zone each comprising a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways and

wherein a plurality of terminal identifiers of the first zone are also used for terminals of the second zone.

23. (previously presented) The gateway as claimed in claim 22 wherein said request comprises the packet network address of the gateway.

24. (currently amended) The gateway as claimed in claim 22 wherein said reply comprises cost information associated with the second gateways ~~which can be contacted to reach the destination terminal.~~

25. (previously presented) A communications network comprising a gateway as claimed in claim 22.

26. (previously presented) A communications network comprising a gatekeeper as claimed in claim 18.

27. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium containing computer program code for controlling a gatekeeper which is arranged for use in a packet-based communications network comprising a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways and wherein identifiers are associated with each of said plurality of terminals and each of said plurality of gateways has a packet network address, said computer program code being arranged to control said gatekeeper such that:-

- (i) information is stored about each of said plurality of gateways in the communications network said information comprising the identifier of each of said plurality of terminals connected to each of said plurality of gateways and the packet network address of each of said plurality of gateways;

(ii) the packet network address of ~~at least one of said~~ a plurality of gateways ~~which can be contacted to reach the destination terminal~~ having a terminal associated therewith where said terminal has an identifier identical to the destination terminal identifier comprising the request may be determined; and

(iii) in response to requests received from any of said plurality of gateways in the communications network, said requests comprising an identifier of a destination terminal, a reply is sent to a requesting gateway, said reply comprising the packet network address of at least one of said plurality of identified gateways which can be contacted to reach the destination terminal;

wherein said communications network comprises a first zone and a second zone each comprising a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways and wherein a plurality of terminal identifiers of the first zone are also used for terminals of the second zone.

28. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium containing computer program code for controlling a gateway in order to contact a destination terminal from an originating terminal via a packet-based communications network which comprises a plurality of terminals connected either to the gateway or to second gateways and further comprising a gatekeeper, said gatekeeper having information about each said gateway and second gateways comprising an identifier for each terminal connected to each of said gateway and second gateways and the packet network address of each of said gateway and second gateways, said computer program code being arranged to control the gateway such that:-

(i) a request is sent from the gateway to the gatekeeper, said request comprising the identifier of the destination terminal;

(ii) a reply is received at the gateway from the gatekeeper said reply comprising the packet network address of at least one of ~~the~~ a plurality of the second gateways which can be contacted to reach the destination terminal having a terminal associated therewith where said terminal has an identifier identical to the destination terminal identifier comprising the request;

wherein said communications network comprises a first zone and a second zone each comprising a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways and wherein a plurality of terminal identifiers of the first zone are also used for terminals of the second zone.